THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1997 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 14th August, 1997. The Provisions of the said Bill are based on the recommendations made by Justice Malimath Committee, 129th Report of the Law Commission, Committee on Subordinate Legislation (11th Lok Sabha) in its first Report and the Resolution adopted in the Law Ministers' Conference held on 30th June, 1997 and 1st July, 1997 at New Delhi. The said Bill was referred for examination and report to the Department Related Standing Committee on Home Affairs. The Committee invited objections and suggestions from various forums including Bar Council of India, State Bar Councils, District Bar Associations etc. The objections and suggestions received from various quarters were considered by the said Committee. The Committee presented its Report to the Parliament on 17-12-98 which was considered and accepted by the Government. The said Bill as recommended by the said Committee has been passed by both the Houses and become the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act, 1999.

(d) Does not arise.

Delhi High Court's Directions for Constituting Permanent Lok Adalats

†2087. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEO: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi High Court have issued directions to the Centre and Delhi Government for constituting permanent Lok Adalats;

(b) if so, what is Government's action thereto:

(c) whether it is necessary to make alternative arrangements for speedy settlement of pending cases in order to lessen the burden on courts;

(d) whether Lok adalats get quick acceptability and creditability as per the High Court; and

(e) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (e) In pursuance of the orders of the Delhi High Court dated January 15, 1999 and May 14, 1999, the Government has framed a scheme for

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

constitution and a permanent and continuous Lok Adalat for the Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India located in Delhi for the purpose of resolution of a disputes between the Government of India and its employees and private persons.

(c) and (d) The Delhi High Court vide its order dated January 15, 1999 read with its subsequent order dated May 14, 1999 had emphasised the necessity for setting up permanent and continuous Lok Adalats to reduce the pendency in courts. According to the High Court, Since a Lok Adalat is presided over by a sitting or retired judge or judicil officer, it evokes instant acceptability and creditability.

Reservation to SC / ST in Supreme Court

2088. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take necessary steps to incorporate in the Constitution a clause for providing reservation of SC / ST judges in the Supreme Court;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (c) Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court of India is made under article 124 of the Constitution of India which does not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. There is no proposal at present for incorporating in the Constitution of India a clause providing for reservation of SCs / STs in the matter of appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court of India. But almost every communication to the Cheif Justices of High Courts emphasises this aspect.

Plea Bargaining System for speedy disposal of cases

†2089. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether with a view to expedite the disposal of crores of cases which are under the consideration of lower Courts Government propose to start the "Plea Bargaining System";

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.